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March 1, 2010 Volume 10 Number 4 Serving Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Leona Valley, Green Valley, Three Points and Neenach Distribution: 2,500

Lakes Queen is Junior Miss AV

By Cindi Alcott
Contributing writer
Brooklyn Nicole Alcott, 2009 Junior Miss Hughes- Elizabeth Lakes, was crowned the 2010 Junior Miss Antelope Valley on Saturday, January 30.
The 12-year-old seventh grade student



was chosen from among 16 girls from communities throughout the Antelope Valley who competed for the title in the 2010 Rhinestone Cowgirls Pageant held at Esparanza Elementary School.
Judges selected Brooklyn after contestants participated in one-on-one interviews, a speech, and an impromptu question.
Brooklyn also received recognition for her spirit (director's choice) and fundraising efforts (community service) for the Saddle-Up Club.
Brooklyn has been a resident of Green Valley for nearly 12 years and is the first Junior Miss Lakes Queen to ever receive the title of Junior Miss Antelope Valley!
Brooklyn is looking forward to continuing community service and supporting local community queens throughout the Antelope Valley for the 2010 year.
See related article, page 2.



Joe Lindamann of Leona Valley tells residents about his recent trip to Haiti. Grossman photo.

Leona Valley Man Helps Haitians

By Dahlia Grossman
Three area residents were so moved by the plight of the Haitian people that they organized a team of volunteers and spent nine days helping people recover from the earthquake.
Firefighter Joe Lindamann of Leona Valley, his daughter Katherine of Santa Clarita and 76-year-old former Leona Valley resident Pat Stillson, part of a group called Firefighters for Christ International, left the states on February 2 and flew to the Dominican Republic, where they embarked on a grueling eight-hour bus ride to Carrefour, a city that is near Port au Prince.
"A government agency wouldn't go there because it is 'red flagged' or unsafe," said Lindamann. "The UN won't enter the area without an armed escort because of the many gangs," he said. Lindamann said it is not safe to go out at night anywhere in Haiti and that the entire country is fraught with anarchy.
The 15-person team that Lindamann was part of had no concrete plans or specific destination when they embarked on the trip, but felt that God would lead them to a place where they could help. As firefighters, they felt they would be resourceful enough to find food, water and shelter.
The team was lead to a privately owned orphanage where a family cared for 35 boys and 15 girls. These children are not up for adoption, according to Lindamann. "The family hopes to educate them so that they might someday become the leaders of Haiti," said Lindamann. "They give them scholarships to study in the United States and then, unfortunately, most do not want to come back to the island," he said.
The firefighters had a threefold mission at the orphanage: 1. to set up a medical clinic; 2. to build a tent city and school for area residents; and 3. to teach the people about Christianity.
Lindamann told his audience at the Leona Valley Community Building on February 18 that the first thing they had to do was to build a guard tower on top of the schoolhouse - a building that had been donated by a New York couple. The way it works in Carrefour, according to Lindamann, is that a gang will approach a building and fire a shot into the air. If they hear an answering shot, they leave. Otherwise, they loot the place.
The volunteers spent their own money to pay for travel and used donations to buy supplies. While there, the built enough desks to accommodate at least 60 students, organized a storage room beneath the orphanage and built shelves. Another team will soon travel to Haiti and will use the tent city built by Lindamann's group as a model.
In a closing commentary, Lindamann explained how the island had once been a peaceful fishing village. When the Spanish and French colonized the island, they divided it into the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The French made the native Haitians into slaves.
Eventually, the native people revolted, but by then the island's resources and way of life had been destroyed.

County to Expand Bicycle Paths

Press release
The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is currently updating its Bikeway Master Plan. The Plan seeks to expand and connect the county network of bikeways, expand existing county maintained bicycle facilities, and develop a prioritized list of projects.
The Department of Public Works will hold three rounds of public workshops as part of this process. The first round of workshops will outline the Plan and provide opportunities for public input. This input will be presented at the second round of workshops to obtain feedback before the draft plan is released for public comment.
The final round of workshops will be held after the draft Plan is released and the public has had time to review the Plan.
A presentation will be made at the March 25 meeting of the Association of Rural Town Councils, at Fire Station 129, 42110 6th Street West, Lancaster between 7 and 9 p.m.
If you want to have a bike path in the Lakes and Valleys, come to this meeting.
Visit the county's website at www.lacountybikeplan.org for parking, directions, and other information related to each specific meeting.
For questions regarding the project, please contact Matt Benjamin, project lead, at (213) 489-7443 or matbenjamin@altaplanning.com.
For general questions regarding the County's Bikeway Program, contact Bikeway Coordinator, Abu Yusuf at (626) 458-3940 or ayusuf@dpw.lacounty.gov.



Congratulations to the charter group of Lakes outstanding citizens, who were recognized by the Lakes Town Council at a banquet at Giannini's Restaurant on February 6. Standing, back row, left to right: Lee Ryan (MC), Bud Lehner, Sharon Giannini, Karen Graham, Dave Faust, Bob Large, Norm Judd, Lisa Moulton of Senator George Runner's office, Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, Chuck Kevitch (town councilman); middle row: Teri Gordon, Dahlia Grossman, Jim Walker (town councilman), Valerie Kevitch (wife of councilman Chuck Kevitch); front row: Nick Giannini, Allaire Koslo and Linda Joyn. Not pictured: Rob Kennard. Photo by Claudia Summers. See related articles, pages 5 and 8.

Lakes Queens Pageant Slated for Sun., March 7

By Cindi Alcott, contributing writer

Carolyn Kendall, Miss Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes; Brooklyn Alcott, Junior Miss Hughes Elizabeth Lakes; and Anisa Dunn, Little Miss Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes, invite residents to attend this year's pageant scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2010, at the Oaks Conference Center, 18651 Pine Canyon Road, Lake Hughes. The pageant begins at 5:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "JUNGLE FEVER" and the girls would love you to SWING ON BY for some jungle fun.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under, and will be available at the door.

The following are competing for this year's titles:

Little Miss Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes: Leah Lynette Werner and Elyse Marie Carroll;

Junior Miss Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes: Ashley Rich; and

Miss Hughes-Elizabeth-Lakes: Sarah Fitzgerald and Nichola Hamilton.

Church to Distribute

Easter Baskets

The Church of the Lakes is giving out Easter baskets to the needy in our community. If you would like to receive a basket, please call the church at 724-1370, Dawn Dunn at 724-1435, or Dan McKim at 233-4768 before March 28. Baskets will be given out between noon and 1 pm on Sunday March 28.

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270-9911

Schneider Assigned as Resident Deputy

By Dahlia Grossman

Congratulations to our new resident deputy, Bob Schneider. Schneider is a 20-year veteran of the Sheriffs Dept, who has worked in our area since June, and has a reputation for going after traffic violators. "Ninety percent of the people I pull over in Leona Valley are residents," Schneider told attendees of the February 8 Leona Valley Town Council meeting. The deputy said he has been giving warnings to locals but will be issuing tickets from now on. "Remember, the speed limit in the center of town is 40, not 70!" he told the group. Schneider also noted that he will soon be getting a radar gun. So please slow down. Those tickets are very expensive.

The deputy reported that there had been a bad accident near the bison ranch on January 8. "A woman slid on the ice, hit the concrete barriers and rolled over the side," he said.

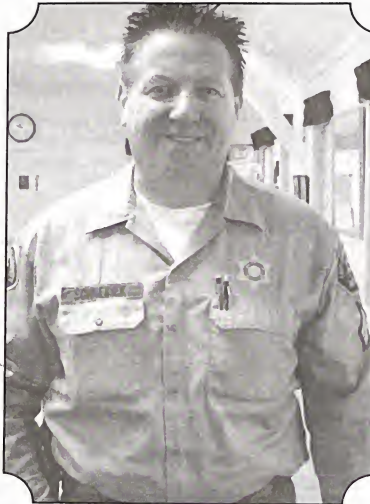
Burglaries

Deputy Schneider also reported that there has been a rash of burglaries along Elizabeth Lake Road. "Barns, sheds, and storage containers are being hit at night," said the deputy. "At one of the U-pick cherry orchards, they cut a hole in the wall and stole generators," he said.

Mail theft

Mail theft is also occurring again, according to Schneider. "Somebody saw them (the thieves) and chased them over Godde Hill into Lancaster, but then lost them," he said. They were driving a dark colored car, according to the deputy.

Schneider said that he "has an issue" with out-of-towners who park at 90th and Elizabeth Lake Road selling things and saying they are looking for work. "If you see people hanging around, please call me at the station and I'll chase them back down," he said.



Bob Schneider is our new Resident Deputy. Grossman photo.

Two Residents Report Identity Theft

Three Lakes and Valleys residents were recently victims of identity theft.

In the first case, a woman from Lake Hughes reported that someone had used her checking account number and had her own checks printed. "When I got my statement from the bank, I noticed a check that didn't match mine, so I returned it to the bank," said the woman.

The next day, she discovered that her ATM card wouldn't work. When she inquired at the bank, she found that the bank had deactivated it. "The bank had determined that the odd check in my statement had been written by an identity thief," said the woman. "Fortunately, it was a small amount. I guess they were doing a 'test run' to see if I would notice," she said.

A Leona Valley woman reported that someone used some of her old credit cards that had no balance on them. "They also applied for a credit card at a couple of department stores but had spelling errors and the wrong birth date and the store grew suspicious," said the woman.

"The store denied the request and notified me," she said. But another store did allow the thief to purchase gift cards fraudulently. "The clerk didn't ask for an i.d.," she said.

While the deputy was taking the report, he received a call that another Leona Valley had also been victimized.

Code 7 Ministries Needs Your Help

By Glenn McConnell
Contributing writer

A year ago this food ministry was started. The economy was looking pretty grim and lots of folks were out of work. There was a need for neighbors to help neighbors by providing food, not just during the holidays but throughout the year.

Folks from the Lakes and Valleys began providing dry food goods. The requests were few in the first couple of months but have steadily grown. The economy has continued to decline and more and more folks are losing their jobs.

Code 7 Ministries now receives daily requests for food. I would encourage Lakes and Valleys residents to inventory their food pantries and donate what they can.

Many donors have been buying extra food each time they shop. Recently, I have received firewood donations that have been passed along to those in need.

I am currently looking for a location in Lake Hughes to open a thrift store (Country Christian Thrift Store). Items would be provided to those in need at little or no cost.

Please continue to pray for this ministry and those in need. If you are in need of food or firewood or would like to donate, please call: (661) 270-9016.

Thank you for your prayers, love and support.

Code 7 Ministries

A food ministry serving the Lakes and Valleys.

If you are in need of food or have food to donate (canned goods or dry goods), call Glenn at 270-9016.



If you see news happening, call The Mountain Yodeler at 661-965-2201.

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Church of the Lakes Welcomes Pastor Joanne Oemig

It is with much joy that The Church of the Lakes welcomes our new pastor, Reverend Joanne Oemig, and extends a very warm welcome to her and her husband Marty.

Her recent appointment has all the congregation praising the Lord for His faithful answer to our prayers. We look forward to her dedicated pastoral leadership and loving Christian ministry.

Pastor Joanne isn't exactly new to the Church of the Lakes. She has been a guest speaker on several occasions in the past year, and was our primary guest throughout the Christmas season.

She has faithfully preached the word of God on every visit. She is also a talented pianist/organist who blesses and inspires us with her worship music each Sunday.

Before moving into pastoral ministry, Joanne was a church music director and served in multiple roles in her church and community

for several decades. She is a writer of fiction, non-fiction/humor, and music education articles. Her articles have been published in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

She has also been a horse trainer and riding instructor for more than 20 years.

Joanne and Marty have two adult children and two grandchildren. They live in Newbury Park.

Pastor Joanne is excited to serve the Lord in our community and welcomes all opportunities to get to know the people of Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake.

Please come and meet Pastor Joanne and Marty at the Church of the Lakes this Sunday (or any Sunday!) at 10 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reviewed by Dawn Baertlein

The New Policeman is a modern Irish folktale, blending Irish music (there's a playable tune at the end of every chapter), Irish mythology, and the rush of modern life into an intriguing fantasy/mystery.

J.J. Liddy is an expert fiddler at age 15, and all his life he and his family have hosted their small town's ceilis, which are dance parties with live music.

But people just don't have time any more. It's all anyone can do most days to get the necessary work done to make a living, and feed the family. Kids barely have time for school and the required extracurricular activities.

When J.J.'s mother makes a birthday wish for more time, J.J. promises to

find it for her. But he never dreams there's a supernatural reason for the way time is slipping away.

His quest leads him to Tír na nÓg, the land of eternal youth, where time is supposed to stand still, but no longer does. Slowly time is inching away, and J.J. must figure out why.

Tied up in all this are the mystery of the newly arrived policeman, who can't seem to quite remember things but plays a mean fiddle, and the rumors that J.J.'s great-grandfather killed a priest, something J.J. will not believe.

Some readers may feel that it takes a few too many pages for the magic to begin in *The New Policeman*. Still, even before J.J. finds his way into Tír na nÓg to visit

the fairies, the novel Irish setting make this a fascinating read. You can hear the Irish brogue as you read, and the glossary at the end comes in handy.

The explanation of where our lost socks go is just an added benefit. It seems there are leaks between our world and the land of the fairies, often right behind our clothes dryers. Our stray socks spew into Tír na nÓg from time to time. This is also why the fairies tend to wear unmatched socks.

The New Policeman is recommended for grades 7-10, and is the winner of several British awards.

Happy reading!

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Lakes Community Honors Outstanding Citizens

The Lakes Community Outstanding Citizens were honored and roasted at a Community Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, February 6 at Gianinni's Bistro and Grill in downtown Lancaster.

Nearly 100 people turned out to enjoy the evening of dining and celebration and witness each honoree receive special awards. The Lakes Town Council sponsored the event.

Lee Ryan, an accomplished entertainer and humorist who hails from Green Valley, served as the master of ceremonies. While there were serious presentations, laughter ruled the evening as Lee Ryan roasted each honoree as they came forward to accept their individual award.

Each outstanding citizen was presented a statuette that was engraved with the name of the award and the individual. Also each honoree was presented with commendations. Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, presented a commendation to each honoree that was signed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Lisa Moulton, district director for Senator George Runner, presented the outstanding citizens with a Certificate of Recognition signed by California State Senator George Runner and California Assemblyman Steve Knight.

Council Vice President Chuck Kevwitch also unveiled a plaque engraved with the names of each honoree and adorned with the Lakes Town Council emblem. The special plaque will be displayed, along with pictures of the honorees, at the Lakes Community Center.

Before the honorees came forward for their recognition, Jim Walker, president of the Lakes Town Council spoke to the gathering about the outstanding citizens. He

said, "These are not individuals who give their best to the community just one day, but instead, give their best to the Lakes Community every day, sometimes in small ways and sometimes in large ones, but always consistently."

Walker shared that our honorees are individuals who make a difference. He explained that their service and contributions to the community have resulted in positive, lasting, and measurable impact on the community.

The Lakes Town Council presented its first outstanding citizen award to former Lakes Town Council President Karen Graham in February of 2009. The council went on to recognize Robin Kennard, Dahlia Grossman, Linda Joynt, Nick and Sharon Gianinni, Teri Gordon, Bud Lehner, Bob Large, Norm Judd, Allaire Paterson Koslo, Norm Hickling and Dave Faust. All of these individuals are considered the charter outstanding citizens of the Lakes Community.

See group photo on page 2.

Council Achieves State Non-Profit Status

The Lakes Town Council is now recognized by the State of California as a non-profit corporation, according to council president Jim Walker.

Walker said the council's legal counsel, Jonas Grant, informed him that the status was achieved on February 9. "Now we will begin the next step of securing Federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c) 4 non-profit status," said Walker. "This is a requirement before obtaining federal income tax exemption and federal non-profit recognition," he said.

At the March council meeting Walker will bring forth the first reading of the bylaw changes that will be necessary in order to comply with federal tax exempt regulations. Assuming the council were to adopt a second reading in April, legal counsel will immediately file the required documents with the Internal Revenue Service.

"I want to thank the council and the community for supporting this exciting and beneficial endeavor," said Walker.



Lisa Moulton of George Runner's office, and Norm Hickling, on behalf of Supervisor Antonovich, award commendations to outstanding Lakes citizens. See article, this page. Grossman photo.

Council Seeks to Protect Lake

At the March meeting of the Lakes Town Council, Jim Walker, president, will bring forth a formal resolution that will officially call upon county, state and federal agencies to work vigorously to acquire, preserve and protect Elizabeth Lake Private as conservation property and for public use as a low impact water recreation area.

This resolution will also call for these public agencies to work vigorously with land conservation organizations to facilitate the process of acquisition and protection, according to a notice from Walker.

"This resolution if passed by the council will be presented formally at a meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors," said Walker. "It will also be presented in person to state and federal elected officials that represent the Lakes Community," he said.

"Such a resolution can serve as the formal position of the Lakes Community and the Lakes Town Council and serve as a moving and foundational document in an effort to convince elected officials that our community is extremely serious about preserving the lake," said Walker. "The economy and lack of tax dollars has clearly effected public agencies' willingness to engage in serious discussions about purchasing or assisting with the purchase. But like all economic cycles, the economy will rebound and dollars will be available again. It is essential that our community be bold and assertive and keep this matter front and center in the eyes of our elected officials and to further assist conservation advocates in their efforts to preserve our landmark lake," he said.

Copies of the resolution will be available in advance of the next council meeting. Attend the meeting and participate in this important discussion.

Council has new Web Address

The Lakes Town Council has a new website address which will be easier to locate on the world wide web:

www.lakestowncouncil.com
The email address of the council is thelakestowncouncil@gmail.com

Report Nuisances

To report a nuisance, such as numerous unregistered vehicles on a property, people living in campers or rundown trailers, animal abuse or piles of junk on a property, call 211 from your landline. To speak to Deputy Ferrell or leave him a message, call 272-2418.

Lakes Town Council Inc.



Next Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2010, Time: 8:30 am
Location: Lakes Community Center

Agenda Highlights

- Commendation – Michelle Hamilton
- Elizabeth Lake Private – Preservation
- 501 (c) 4 – Articles of Incorporation Update
- Bylaw Changes – Non-Profit Organization

Council Members

Jim Walker, President; Chuck Kevwitch Vice President
Tad Summers Secretary; Karen Graham Treasurer
Doris Karabinus Member

Council Alternates: Tom Hamilton and Allaire Koslo

Green Valley Residents Urged to Write Letters Protesting Transmission Lines

By Carla Jetton

Green Valley residents and friends are still in the letter writing mode, telling the LA DWP and other decision makers that our community is not an appropriate location for their monstrous transmission towers referred to as the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project.

Heart & Soul Coffeehouse is once again kindly hosting our letter writing event on **Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 11 am until 2 pm.** We can purchase lunch, coffee and all sorts of delicious goodies while crafting heart-felt letters protecting our way of life.

Below are the names and addresses of all the people who need to hear from us — so if you have time and interest, please continue to write these folks on your own, driving home the point that we don't want our homes destroyed. The impact on our health, the wildlife, the traffic and our property values are at stake.

If you send letters on your own, please give Dale Kimmel, Green Valley Town Council president, a copy just so he can keep track of just how seriously our community is taking this issue.

Please mark your calendar's to come by on March 13 to write some letters with your neighbors.

Please write letters to these decision makers to save Green Valley!!

Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor of Los Angeles
200 N. Main St., Rm 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Jody Noiron
Forest Supervisor
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006

Phone: (626) 574-1613
FAX (626) 574-5233

Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Field Office
Hector Villalobos
Field Manager
300 S. Richmond Rd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Phone: (760) 384-5400
Fax: (760) 384-5499

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1. Lee Kanon Alpert, President
2. Edith Ramirez, Vice President
3. Forescee Hogan-Rowles, Commissioner
4. Jonathan Parfrey, Commissioner
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Room 1555-H, 15th Floor
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 367-4211
Fax: (213) 367-1423

Other Involved people to send a copy of your letter:
Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich
Antelope Valley Field Office
1113 Ave M-4, Suite A
Palmdale, CA 93551
661-726-3600

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841

Carol Browner, director
White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500



DPW Truck in Trouble

By Lu Bole, senior staff writer

The afternoon of Thursday, February 11 was not a good time for the driver of an L. A. County Dept. of Public Works truck on Calle Laguna in Green Valley.

The DPW folks have been super busy restoring all the damaged roads here in Green Valley area after all the rainstorms that have passed through, and Calle Laguna is one of the several dirt roads here.

At about 3 pm on this particular day, the fully loaded dump truck, carrying dirt to be spread over washed-out and/or badly rutted roads was driving from Shoreline to Calle Laguna when the Fire Safe Council truck and chipper were approaching from the opposite direction.

The DPW driver moved over just a bit to allow the two trucks to pass each other, when the soft roadway, undermined and softened by the small creek there, caused the truck to slide down into the creek. (See photo(s)) No one was injured, and the truck suffered no permanent damage. (One of the workers to whom I spoke said "It just looks bad.")

This DPW agency is an often unappreciated department, which is responsible for the maintenance of 408 miles of roads - with a crew of only nine workers! They cover the area from Avenue "A" to Neenach, and from Division to Avenue "M." Within this area, this crew covers San Francisquito to Power Plant One, Green Valley, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, Three Points and Leona Valley.

They were the folks who cleaned up all the fallen branches from last year's December 17 storm that were blocking our roads. They are the ones who spread out cinders on icy roads, and plow away the snow to keep us able to get to school and work.

I, for one, think that they deserve a heartfelt "Thanks" for all they do!

Photo: Lu Bole

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County Withdraws from Planned Legal Action

By Dahlia Grossman

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors has withdrawn its legal action against California Edison, at least for the time being, according to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich.

In December the board of supervisors had voted 4-0 to challenge Edison in regards to the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, which goes through Leona Valley, Bouquet Canyn, Action, Santa Clarita and Lancaster.

At that time, Supervisor Antonovich stated: "We have a problem because Edison is placing their high power lines right through communities and there are other areas where they could locate them that would not severely impact the residents."

"As a result, we are asking Edison to do what is best and right in protecting the public health of our communities by moving these power lines outside of residential areas."

The supervisors went into a closed session at the end of January and voted 3 to 2 to withdraw the lawsuit.

Acton Town Council and Leona Valley Town Council, have sent letters to Supervisor Antonovich expressing their disappointment and objecting to the way in which the action was cancelled. It is anticipated that the Association of Rural Town Councils will also send a letter.

Lakes & Valleys CERT Program Update

By Robin Kennard
Contributing Writer

They said it couldn't be done. But we did it! During the past month we were able to establish communications among our five communities to a central location in Lake Hughes. We still have work to do on our hand-held device network, but this is PROGRESS! A big thank you to Joe Brong of Elizabeth Lake and Doris Karabinus of Lake Hughes.

We are in the process of contacting schools, businesses and utility companies, and familiarizing ourselves with local camps and state facilities. We are being received very well by everyone we have contacted so far. Now that AV CERT is under the direction of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. and the L.A.Co. Fire Dept. it has opened up doors for us.

We still need to know of anyone who has medical training or heavy equipment who are willing to stand up and be available in the event of an emergency. We understand that medical personnel will be expected to go to their designated assignments, but if you are unable to get there,

we sure could use you!

We also need to identify all the pre-1933 buildings out there. Please get in touch with us if you know of any. Your ideas are welcome. While we are gathering information to help us all survive, we would love to hear from you if you can think of any other concerns we should add to our list.

The local Fire Safe Council has joined in our efforts and we appreciate the work they do and the help they have offered.

Don't forget! Save the date! Saturday, March 20 is the AV CERT Refresher.

Get your CERT packs ready and come out and have fun while learning important skills. Please contact one of the following Squad Leaders in your area for information, and remember: Do not self-activate.

Green Valley
Ron Sardisco
270-9074
rsardisco1@mac.com

Leona Valley
Larry Tyler
270-1070
tccprez@roadrunner.com

Lake Hughes
Gene Heintz
264-7279
geneassoc@msn.com

Elizabeth Lake
Frank Toothaker
802-2884
fthothaker@verizon.net

Three Points
Ian Coster
724-1998
irc828@aol.com

Lakes & Valleys Captain
Robin Kennard
917-8806
724-0335
robsusakiwi@msn.com.

Art Guild Plans Art and Artifacts Sale

Lakes and Valleys Art Guild to hold annual Art and Artifacts Sale at the Gallery on April 24 and 25.

Please contact Marilyn Lupica at 724-1397 if you would like to donate any interesting items and treasures.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Submitted by Bev Brownfield

Sertoma has \$4000.00 this year to give out in scholarships to graduating senior high school level students living in Leona Valley, Green Valley, Lake Hughes or Lake Elizabeth. This would include independent study students and home schooled students.

We also offer a scholarship for a community college student transferring to an accredited college or university.

Go to www.leonavalleyisertoma.org pick up an application at Rancher's Market.

Applications must be accompanied by a 500-word essay titled: "What community service means to me and how the community has benefited from my service."

Applications are due March 22.

Sertoma has given out \$23,650 in past years and this year will bring the total to \$27,650.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our scholarship by buying our football books over the years.

Woman's Club Makes Donations

The Lakes Woman's Club made the following donations in February:

\$1,000 to the Lakes Community Center building fund
\$500 to Haiti earthquake relief
\$500 to the Lakes and Valleys Art Guild
\$200 to the Volunteers on Patrol for supplies
\$200 to the Lakes Little League

All the money that was donated came from the Woman's Club's annual Casino Night fundraiser.

On May 1, the Woman's Club will hold its annual yard sale fundraiser. If you have items to donate, please call Dahlia at 724-1293 or just drop them off between 8 and 9 am on May 1 in the parking lot in front of the Lakes Community Center.

THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Editor/Publisher - Dahlia Grossman
Staff writer: Lu Bole

Contributing writers: Dawn Baertlein, Glenn McConnell, Robert Kerekes, Linda-Marcella Berg, Cindy Alcott, Eva Liland, Carla Jetton, Laura "cha" Verneti

Production: Dahlia Grossman, Al Carlson

Art Editor: Todd Cooper; Soldier's Page Editor: Jan Carlson,

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ARTICLES/PHOTOS: Deadline is 15th of the month. Please email to dahlia.grossman@Verizon.net or mail to Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

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DISTRIBUTION: 2,500 copies.

P.J. DEHAAS



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and Other Outlying Areas**



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Cute studio cabin in Lake Hughes. Great little weekend getaway on nice lot. Fenced yard and storage building. Zoned Commercial.

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Locals Help with Acton Evacuations

Rob Kennard honored at banquet in absentia

Robin Kennard was unable to attend the Lakes Town Council's Outstanding Citizen recognition banquet because in addition to being a VOP, he is also a member of the FAST (Fast Action Support Team) group.

The FAST group is activated by the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. and on Saturday, February 6, they were activated to assist with mudslide evacuations in Acton.

Other FAST members on the job that night were Gene Heintz, Mike Foxworth and Debi Tallent.

Rob had been named outstanding citizen in 2009 because he started the Volunteers on Patrol program in the Lakes and Valleys, among other things. In his absence, his wife Debbie accepted his commendations.

Reitanos Win Case Against Edison

By Dahlia Grossman

Congratulations to Roger and June Reitano of Leona Valley, who won a lawsuit against Southern California Edison in an eminent domain case on January 27.

In the lawsuit, the Reitano's claimed that Edison did not award fair market value for the 26 acres of farmland they took in order to erect transmission towers as part of the Tehachapi Renewable Energy Project. The Reitanos said that the "comps" used in the appraisal were taken from Lake L.A., Pearblossom and Rosamond, and that all the comps were of far lesser value than the Leona Valley property.

The Reitano's also said that Edison's claim that no damage was done to their property by the construction of the towers was ridiculous.

A jury deliberated for only five hours before delivering its award in favor of the Reitano's and Edison was ordered to pay a fair price for the land, plus damages.

"It was a terrible experience," said Roger Reitano. "It's not enough (money), but it's close," he said, quoting Paul Newman in *The Sting*.

Humor

Three Sisters

Three sisters, ages 92, 94 and 96, live in a house together. One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea and listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood."

She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door!"

Motorsports Park Hotly Debated

By Susan Zahnter
Contributing writer

LA County Regional Planning Commission holds meeting for Fairmont Butte
On February 6, Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission held a meeting in Lancaster, as part of an ongoing discussion of the proposed Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park.

The Park is proposed for the north-facing slope of Fairmont Butte, located at 150th Street West and Avenue D, adjacent to the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve State Park, and county-designated Significant Ecological Area 57.

The meeting had standing room only, with an estimated 200 people in attendance. Residents of the Antelope Valley and supporters of the project packed the meeting room at the Lancaster Regional Library.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department determined that the room was too crowded to properly provide safe exit in the event of a fire. Project proponent, Mr. Tom Malloy, of Malloy Family Partners, LP, agreed to ask many of his supporters to leave, so that residents would have an opportunity to stay and speak to the Commission.

The vast majority of Antelope Valley residents who spoke stated opposition to the project. They cited concerns about noise, water pollution and water availability, visual impacts, nighttime light glare, air pollution, fire danger, traffic, adverse effects on property values, and impacts on wildlife living within and near the Significant Ecological Area that comprises part of the project area, and the nearby Poppy Reserve.

It was also pointed out that the Los Angeles County General Plan, the Antelope Valley

Areawide Plan, and the

Town and Country Program discourage projects and development that are inappropriate and incompatible with rural communities and natural areas, and the Regional Planning Commission is the last stop for protection from such activities.

Several supporters, who live elsewhere, spoke about the economic benefit to people who supply racing goods and services and the trickle-down effect that would be beneficial to many business owners in Los Angeles County.

The proposed project is for a private race track, with a full service nightclub, live entertainment, restaurant, private room accommodations, RV parking, and a spot for landing a helicopter.

The helicopter was originally to be used only for emergencies, but there is now an additional request is for "limited" transport of track patrons.

At least one speaker reminded the commissioners that racers and attendees from outside the area would leave the noise and ill effects of the track behind when they go home to suburban neighborhoods.

Supporters also mentioned the lack of racetracks in Los Angeles County, saying that this project would fill a need, even though use of the track would be through private racing clubs, and would be unavailable to the general public.

Additionally, supporters asserted that street racing would be reduced and public safety improved.

In efforts to show local need for a project such as the Motorsports Park, documents submitted to the Regional Planning Commission have stated that there are few upscale facilities to hold weddings and parties in the Antelope Valley. Mr. Malloy has offered the

facilities for special events or banquet rental. That offer might be limited, however, due to estimates that the track would be in use approximately 40 weeks, and presumably, 40 weekends per year.

In a survey of visitors to the Poppy Reserve, as many as 50 percent said they would not visit the Reserve again if a racetrack is built nearby. Eighty-five percent said they would visit less frequently.

The Poppy Reserve receives approximately 100,000 visitors a year, many from other countries, who spend an average of fifty-seven dollars each in goods and services in the Antelope Valley. The economic benefit that already exists may be jeopardized by placement of the track in proximity to the Reserve.

The next meeting regarding this project will be held on March 24 at 9 am at the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission, 320 Temple Street, Room 150.

Those interested in reading project documents, or submitting letters and emails, can visit the Los Angeles County Regional Planning website at:

http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/tentative_parcel_map_no_26805_project_no_02_176_fairmont_butte_motorsports/

To see the project proponent's and supporters' viewpoints, google Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park.

Painted Turtle Vandalized

By Dahlia Grossman

Vandals did \$30,000 worth of damage to The Painted Turtle Camp on the night of January 26, according to Resident Deputy Bob Schneider. "They gained access through the roof of the gym," said the deputy.

According to Schneider, the vandals drove golf carts into the building, seriously damaging eight carts and the gymnasium floor.

A resident told *The Yodeler* that the vandals entered the Painted Turtle property by trespassing on the upper grounds of the Lakes Community Center.

On the same night, Johnson Hall at the Lakes Community Center was broken into and drug paraphernalia was found on the premises.

The two incidents are believed to be related and are also believed to be related to numerous other recent trespassing, theft and vandalism incidents in Lake Hughes.

If you have any information about these criminal activities, please contact Deputy Bob Schneider at the Palmdale Sheriff's Department.

Business People Take Note

If you own a business in Leona Valley, or if you are a Leona Valley resident who owns a business elsewhere, Leona Valley Town Council will put your name on its website at no charge.

For more information, go to <http://leonavalleytowncouncil.org/contactus.aspx>

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CONTACT THE YODELER

Ads, payments and articles for the April 1 issue must be received by Mar. 15. Send submissions to dahlia.grossman@verizon.net and payments to Mountain Yodeler, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

For more information, call 661-724-1293 or 965-2201.



Congratulations to all HELUS first semester principal's academic and citizenship award winners! The following winners went to lunch with the principal at Greenside Grill:

Teacher	Academic Winners	Citizenship Winners	Teacher	Academic Winners	Citizenship Winners
Mrs. Perry (4th)	Meghan Smith	Emily Miller	Miss Carr (6th)	Duane Buchholz	Stephanie Hall
Mr. Verneti (4th)	Molly Cook	Sophie Franco	Mr. Martinez (7th)	Shea Krevi	Marina Garcia
Mrs. Silva (5th)	Gillian Chafelter	Daniel Garcia	Mrs. Smith (7th)	Chiara Smith	Elizabeth Hall
Mrs. Lewis (5th)	Kelly Kruger	Dani Beck	Mr. Nosik (8th)	Sarah Hambro	Madison Deaville
Mrs. Lewis (6th)	Aaron Erickson	Alec Nosik	Mrs. Johnson (8th)	Samantha Ocampo	Tyler Lee

Photos: Anja Whitemyer, except group photo: Dahlia Grossman.



GREEN VALLEY SENIORS CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY



Go For Fun Club (Green Valley Seniors)

By Glenn McConnell, contributing writer

About a year ago the Go For Fun Club was reborn. Our first year has been a great success. We enjoyed many delicious potlucks, field trips to various venues, tours, hayride and caroling, several community service projects, a Christmas party, a Halloween costume party, prepared a float for the Green Valley 4th of July parade (we took first place) and three fundraisers to support *The Mountain Yodeler*.

We now have about 50 members. The only requirement for membership is a desire to have fun, interact with other seniors, have fun, help our community, have fun, be at least 55 years old (close is okay, we don't check IDs) and have fun.

2010 is off to a great start. We enjoyed a wonderful Valentine's Day dinner at Crazy Otto's (formerly Jackie's) in Leona Valley. Ted, the manager provided us with a real feast.

Our March potluck will be on Saturday, March 6. We start at 1 pm at the Green Valley Charitable Hall. Bring either a main dish, a side dish, a salad, or a dessert. Don't forget to bring a plate and your own utensils and with a big appetite!

We will be baking desserts for Green Valley's St. Patrick's Day dinner this month (Wednesday, March 17). Come on down to the Green Valley Charitable Hall for a GREAT meal. This event is open to EVERYONE in the Lakes and Valleys. (See related article, page 16.)

This is the year you need to get involved with your community and have more fun. If you have any questions, please call Glenn or Bonnie at 270-9016.



Photos: Dahlia Grossman



This 'n That

Leona Valley Important Person Saluted by LVIA



LVIP Alice Benoit is flanked by LVIA President Sarah Clayton (left), and Alice's husband Jay Benoit for a photo after Sarah presented Alice with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her hard work as a community volunteer. Photo: Christine Stoddard.

Reprinted with permission from Leona Valley's *Cherry Chapters* newsletter.

For the Leona Valley Improvement Association's (LVIA) delayed January general meeting the board of directors chose to salute someone who has undertaken myriad tasks for our community. The overwhelmingly easy choice as the January Leona Valley Important Person (LVIP) was Alice Benoit.

Alice has worked tirelessly as a Leona Valley Town Council member and as a volunteer on different committees to protect Leona Valley and its rural lifestyle. Among a recently created list of tasks undertaken by the town council, Alice has been in the forefront of most of them.

In a statement Alice prepared for LVIA she says, "While I have volunteered periodically since childhood (in politics) I did not volunteer for community service until after Sept. 11, 2001. At that time there was a call to volunteer wherever possible, including our own towns. It was then that I ran for town council.

"Because of my unique expertise in land use issues and forensic applications, I have volunteered on council committees that take advantage of these talents... sometimes to a fault. This has resulted in 1,000s of hours of work to protect Leona Valley.

"Presently, I am continuing to work on the power line issue and land use issues, as well as participating in the first official state winter count for Leona Valley's tri-colored blackbird."

The LVIA Board will be choosing an LVIP to honor each month. If you live in Leona Valley and you have someone you would like to see on our list, please put the information about them, including their contact information and yours, in the LVIA box in Rancher's Market so we can salute people who work to make a difference in our community.

Lakes Resident Writes Winning Essay



Congratulations to Lake Hughes resident Chloe Koslo, who won the district competition for the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) essay contest on The Transcontinental Railroad for 7th Grade. Chloe is pictured here with her certificate and a \$100 savings bond at The University Club Orange Grove Bistro in Northridge on February 13, 2010. Chloe is the daughter of Paul and Allaie Koslo (pictured with Chloe above).



Lakes queens and contestants have started preparing for the March 7 pageant. See related article on page 2. Photo: Cindy Alcott.

Sertoma Plans St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sertoma will present its annual St Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage on March 17 from 5 to 8 pm. It will be held at the Leona Valley Community Building and the cost is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Blue Star Mothers of America will have a box to collect items for our troops. Please bring a donation.

Leona Valley Valentine's Day Ice Cream Social



Photos: Dahlia Grossman



The Art Page

Todd Cooper
Art Editor

state of the ART in our community



David Faust Honored as Outstanding Citizen

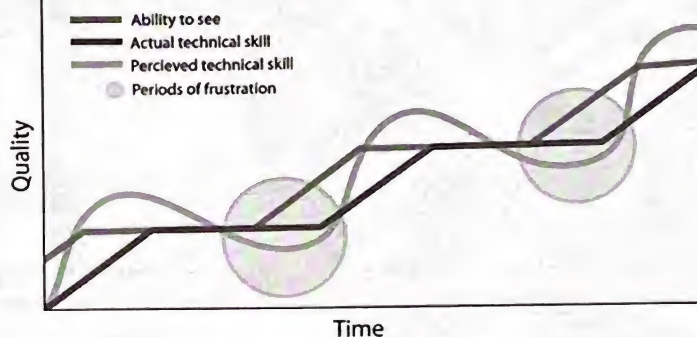
Lakes & Valleys Art Guild president, David Faust, was recently honored as a recipient of the Lakes Town Council Outstanding Citizen award. See the complete story on page 5 in this issue of the Yodeler. Psst...don't tell anyone that Dave lives in Rosamond!

An excerpt from the official commendation reads: Dave Faust is active in the

Lakes Community and has demonstrated a remarkable ability to foster and promote a creative and productive atmosphere while offering his time and artistic talents to other community organizations; provides great service to the community by encouraging and helping to create a vibrant setting where artists in the Lakes Community and the

surrounding Antelope Valley have flourished; is a successful artist who depicts the Lakes in all of their splendor in his plein air paintings, and, Dave Faust is the designer of the Lakes Community sign, a structure that captures the elements of nature and engages community pride.

Improvement in Painting



California Poppy Festival 2010 Call for Fine Arts Vendors

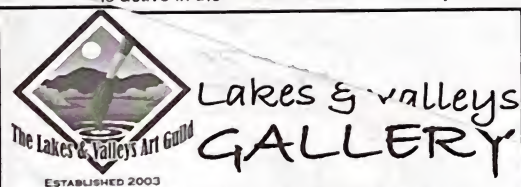
The City of Lancaster and the Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery are inviting applications for fine arts vendors during the California Poppy Festival April 24-25, 2010.

The California Poppy Festival kicks off spring in the Antelope Valley with a glorious array of celebrated performers, colorful artwork, unrivaled events, and mouth-watering delicacies designed to delight, enchant, and amuse people of all ages.

Interested participants in the Fine Arts area must return the attached application which will be reviewed by a committee to determine the best mix of vendors.

The deadline to submit applications is March 6, 2010. Space is limited, and submitting an application does not necessarily guarantee participation in the festival.

For more information on the California Poppy Festival please visit www.poppyfestival.com.



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WORKSHOPS and PRIVATE CLASSES

LVAG NOTES

Members! Sign up for gallery sitting! Just put your name on the calendar at the gallery.

LVAG logo merchandise is available at www.zazzle.com/TheCoyoteStudios/LVAG

The next LVAG general meeting will be Sunday March 28, 2010, 2pm, at the Lakes & Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Rd, Lake Hughes.

www.lakesandvalleysartguild.com

Thank You, Subscribers

Thank you to the following, who renewed their subscriptions to The Mountain Yodeler during February:

Lake Hughes

Larry and Vicki Ladd
Jim Merget
Bob and Jeanette Marshall
Robert and Noes deHaas
Diane and Robert Phillips
Kevin and Kathleen Robbins
William Saunders

Elizabeth Lake

Micky Palmer
Carole and Bill Earle
Douglas Drake

Green Valley

Stephen and Gail Blucher
Gayla and Jon Coon
Doug Mull
Doug Grant and Robyn Casey

Leona Valley

Jerry and Jeannie McHale
Jim and Tawna Mattarocci
Gary and Judy Naeve
Pam and Bill Elliott
Bea Bolin
James and Carol Orr
Bob Mallicoat
Karen and Gerald Meunier
Ed and Diane Stein
Ralph and Diane Ciaramella
Barbara and Robert Hempe

A few of you let me know that you got the wrong letter. I'm sorry about that.

For those who have never sent a donation by subscribing to your local paper, I hope you will consider it some time this year. Many large newspapers are going out of business and I do not want *The Yodeler* to follow that path.

Please send your check to Mountain Yodeler
Box 444
Lake Hughes, CA 93532

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE WEED ABATEMENT

By Laura "cha" Vernetti
Contributing writer

Our brush clearance crew is beginning our "regular" busy season, providing a variety of "fuel reduction" services. In addition to weed wacking, we can chip brush and split wood.

Been doing your own weed abatement but nowhere to put the brush? As we were all reminded last year, dumping brush on vacant land is illegal dumping.

We can chip it for you. Spreading the chippings as ground cover can actually prevent fires. Residents have received their county weed abatement notices.

We urge you to please schedule your job as soon as possible, even for a future date. Customers who make appointments first will be given priority. In most cases we are able to inform the county what properties we have scheduled.

It is too late to not get charged by the county for weed abatement they did in spring 2009. That will be on your November 2010 tax bill. Don't pay huge amounts on your property tax bill for the County weed abatement.

Pay a fraction of the cost and keep the money right here in our communities and

it helps keep us fire safe. Please call Betty for more details.

The AFV&L Fire Safe Council is very excited about local CERT teams forming in all five of our communities. Per the request of the L.A. County Sheriff and L.A. County Fire, the goal is to get as many CERT people in each of the five communities identified and create community maps with important details.

Only the Sheriffs or Fire Dept. would be calling out the CERT teams to perform minor search and rescue. Look in *The Mountain Yodeler* for the squad leader in your community.

There is a large scale CERT event scheduled for March 20 starting at Station 129 on Sixth Street East, near Avenue M. Please call Rob Kennard at 724-0335 for more details.

We are also trying to organize a CERT training class in Green Valley. We need at least 20 people. If you are interested please call us at 270-9911.

The next couple of meetings of the Fire Safe Council are March 3 in Leona Valley and April 7 in Lake Hughes. For more information please call 270-9911.

Bookmobile to Present Goldilocks and the Three Buccaneers in Leona Valley

In Honor Of READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK, The Antelope Valley Bookmobile presents Goldilocks and the Three Buccaneers from 3 - 4 pm,

Friday, March 5, 2010 at the Leona Valley Community Center, 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road.

For more information call: (661) 948-8270 or go to www.colapublib.org

The Bookmobile is your "one stop" for books, music, and videos!



Allaire Koslo
Honorary Mayor
The Lakes Community



P.O. Box 371
Lake Hughes
California, 93532

661-609-1481
allaire@lhc.org



Calling All Runners... Take Your Mark, Get Set, and Go! Marathon Set for April 17

By Lakes Honorary Mayor
Allaire Koslo

You are invited to the 18th annual Leona Divide 50-mile Run beginning at The Lakes Community Center at 6 am Saturday April 17.

If interested please go to the website: leonadivide.com and read all about it. We are still looking for smiling faces to help with check-in on race morning.

Your local Honorary Mayor shall be doing the "Spring Chicken" run of 50 kilometers. The main event, however, is the 50-mile run.

This is a great way to "walk the talk" and "live our motto" of our Lakes

Community: *Where Nature is your Neighbor!*

The new race director, Keira Henninger, has included even more of the Pacific Crest Trail in the course.

We have a training run (26 miles) on Saturday March 13 at 8 am too!

Spaghetti Dinner

And if you'd like to join us Friday night, April 16, there will be a spaghetti dinner at The Lakes Community Center.

Mark your calendars; keep on moving and staying fit in 2010!



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Letter to the Editor

Hot Date !

By Lee Ann Sekeres

Romance is an adventure. It is the unexpected, venturing into the unventured. It's about heroes, community and being alive. Good thing for tennis shoes and a leather jacket.

My husband and I don't see each other much. He works days; I work nights. We had Friday planned for a date night. It's been so long since we've been out together, just the two of us (we have a teen and pre-teens.)

What do you do on a date? What do you wear? Dress up in a sexy outfit with high heels? We live in Green Valley, but, after all, we were goin' into town. Nah, we went for warmth and comfort.

We had dinner, joined by good friends, bought ice cream for dessert afterwards and headed home.

We saw a fire around the last bend about two or three miles from home. One of the D.W.P. residential structures appeared to be on fire.

Because of the urging and determination of Rick Green, we stopped at the blaze where Rick and Allen Sekeres located fire hoses. After a desperate search for a working hydrant, the two hooked them up.

By this time, some residents were alerted to the danger and one resident battled alongside while someone else called 911.

As fire consumed the structure, lit debris carried into the canyon, scorched surrounding trees, and threatened other structures. These heroes bravely kept this fire from spreading. The intense heat, possible danger of "live wires," and smoke didn't deter them. Fire crews from Santa Clarita finally arrived and we slipped away while they finished, ice cream melted and clothes smelling strongly of smoke.

The hero of the night was Rick Green. If you don't know him, you should. Rick and Debra Green live in the way of the proposed Barren Ridge transmission towers. You may have seen the petition or even signed it. They own R.G. Brakes, Alignment and Muffler at 24309 Creekside Road, in Santa Clarita (661-259-7098).

The way he unselfishly did what needed to be done makes me feel better, knowing that he works on my car. Debra says he does this kind of thing a lot.

This story is laced with irony. Residents met recently at the Heart and Soul to write letters to LADWP and to decision makers of the Barren Ridge Project. It is our community which will suffer, our neighbors may lose their homes and our property values will diminish.

Regardless of the potential loss of his home, Rick determinedly fought a fire on DWP property. Would they do the same for us?

Hope your valentine weekend was eventful, but maybe not so hot.



HELIUS students chow down on pizza at the principal's awards luncheon at Greenside Grill on February 12. Photo: Anja Whitemyer. More photos, page 15.

Green Valley Charitable Hall Coming Events

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

MARCH 17, 5 - 8 pm.

Traditional dinner includes desert, coffee or tea. Full plate \$6; 1/2 plate \$3.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AS THE HALL IS IN DIRE NEED OF A NEW ROOF. Memberships are now due. All your membership fees go into maintaining the hall. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 for the whole family.

EASTER BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY and EGG HUNT

April 4, 8 am to noon

Breakfast includes eggs, bacon or sausages, hash browns, biscuit and gravy or pancakes, coffee or, tea, milk or juice. FREE EGG HUNT with purchase of breakfast plate.

Without breakfast, egg hunt is \$1.00. Easter egg hunt starts at 11 am.

Volunteers are needed for the above events. The hall is also a great place for your special events. For additional information, please call Vonnie at 270-1208 or Dick or Bev at 270-9534.

The above events are sponsored by the Green Valley Charitable Hall, 39118 Calle Bonita, Green Valley.



LAKES WOMANS CLUB

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Wed., March 10 at 7 pm
Lakes Community Center

*All Lakes and Valleys
women welcome!*

For information about joining the Lakes
Womans Club, call Judy at 724-2382.

Green Valley Citizens of the Month

By Glenn McConnell, contributing writer

This month a very special couple are being recognized for their outstanding contributions not only to Green Valley but to the entire Lakes and Valleys area. Warren and Kathay Bemiller are the owners / operators of Heart n Soul Café in Green Valley. They moved to the Lake Elizabeth area in 1985 from the San Fernando Valley.

Kathay (born in Santa Monica) graduated from Canoga Park High School and Warren (born in Hollywood) graduated from San Fernando High School. They met while working at the Sepulveda Drive-in Theater. Boy does that bring back memories of my growing up in the San Fernando Valley!

Kathay was working (you guessed it) in food services and Warren was an usher, talking to patrons. (You know that things haven't changed much if you have spent any time at Heart n Soul!).

They have fond memories of growing up in the San Fernando Valley, especially cruising Van Nuys Blvd. on Wednesday Night (Club Night) and eating Bob's Big Boy hamburgers. Warren and Kathay have been married for 34 years and have two daughters, Abby and Rachel.

Warren served his country in the United States Navy (Aviation Department). After leaving the Navy, Warren went to work for the City of Los Angeles. He retired after 30 years of service. Kathay has worked with children (special education, behavior management) for many years and always had her hand in cooking.

Having a business and rental property in Green Valley and their residence in Lake Elizabeth has tied them to both communities. Recently, Warren has been a driving force behind Green Valley's enactment of community standards. He previously played a big part in creating the Lakes Town Council. Both Warren and Kathay are involved in the Lakes Community Club and Warren is a past president of the Lakes Town Council.

In Kathay's spare time, she loves spending time with her grandchildren (Caitlyn is four years old and Fallyn is two years old). She is also a big workout fan.

It's not uncommon to see Warren cruising Spunky Canyon on a Saturday afternoon on his Harley Davison.

Both love working on their vacation home (someday to be their retirement home) on an island in Oregon. They also share a passion for gardening. When asked about music, Warren responds that there are only two types: country and western.

As the owners / operators of Heart n Soul, Warren and Kathay have captured the hearts (and stomachs) of Green Valley residents. Their eating establishment has become Green Valley "central" in the morning Monday through Saturday and again in the evening, Tuesday through Friday.

If you are looking for great food and drinks, lively conversation and good fellowship, then Heart n Soul is the place you want to be.

When tragedy hits (fire, flood, etc.), it allows those who really care to show their colors. Warren and Kathay are the first to respond by opening up their establishment and their hearts.

I salute you both. You folks are what makes the Valleys and Lakes a wonderful place to live.



Warren and Kathay Bemiller (1978)

2009 Lakes Queens Bid a Thankful Farewell

With heavy, yet thankful hearts, Carolyn Kendall (Miss Lakes), Brooklyn Alcott (JM Lakes), and Anisa Dunn (LM Lakes) bid farewell to their roles as our local community queens. As they hand over their crowns, they recall their experiences as everlasting memories of growth, dedication, and gratitude. Thank you girls, for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our communities. With over 100 hours of community service between them, their unselfish graciousness will be remembered for years to come!

The girls would like to thank the following people and local business that made their year a success: Sponsors: The Kendall Family, Macsema Inc., Ms. Dawn Dunn, and family and friends.

Donors: Lakes Community Center, Green Valley Community Hall, Lakes Women's Club, Greenside Grill, Jackie's Country Kitchen, Mountain Top Hair Salon, Anna Handy (Hair Stylist), My Garden Rocks, Mountain Yodeler (Dahlia Grossman), Alice's Wedding Planning, Pinker's Place, Mosman Hay & Feed, Fire Safe Council, Leona Valley Hair Salon, Oaks Christian Conference Center, Lancaster Performing Arts Center, Lu Bole, Coyote Arts Studio, Jay's Art Studio, Valencia Swim Academy, Antelope Valley Fair, Rosehaley Family, Walker Family, Klien Family, Snyder family, and MacIntosh Family.

Very Special People: Everyone above, Holly Nemback, Heidi Gesiriech, Pauline Agbayani, Robert Alcott, Pamela Leon, The Kendall Family, The Alcott Family, The Dunn Family, The Gonzales Family, Shannon Gonzales (JM Rancho Vista 2008 and JMAV 2009), The Hamilton Family, The Hallgren Family, Amber Kendall (JM Lakes 2000 and Miss Lakes 2005 – and little Riley), Brittany Hamilton (Miss Lakes 2007), Heather Jackson (Miss Lakes Princess 2008), Heather Hamilton (JM Lakes 2006), Dulce Jung (LM Lakes 2002 and JM Lakes 2007), Kayla Jackson (JM Lakes 2008), Ashley Rich (LM Lakes Princess 2006), Samantha Hallgren (2009 LM Lakes Princess), Emily Thompson (Miss Antelope Acres 2009), Dallas Sheppard (JM Antelope Acres 2009), All past and present community queens and their families, Tiffany Pointevint, Scott Lawson, Ken Siewert, Mike Jabar (Green Valley Market), Father's Serra's Parish, Teresa Poston (Alex Got Lemonade Stand), Spunky Canyon Market, Papas Country Store, Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Union School and staff, Miss AV Directors and Committee, JM AV Directors and Committee, and LM AV Directors and Committee.

From the girls: "We will always remember our year and those that made it so special. We will take with us memories and lessons that will last a lifetime. We are truly grateful to and proud of the communities we've served, and will continue to work towards making them better places to live for all. Thank you so much for all your support. You will be in our hearts forever!

Sincerely, Carolyn, Brooklyn, and Anisa.

See photo, page 12.

Green Valley Town Council

By Lu Bole, senior staff writer
and Cha Verneti

New council president

The Green Valley Town Council meeting for February was not well attended. It was Laura "Cha" Verneti's last meeting as a board member, and we all wish her the very best. She did a fantastic job at a time when she was most needed!

Our new GVTC president is Dale Kimmel. Florence Bistline is still our vice president (but this position will also soon need to be filled). Gordon Jacks is our treasurer, and Mary Jo Steel will take the GVTC secretary's position.

Alesia Robertson has also offered to serve on the board which gives us a five member board again! Thank you.

Resident deputy introduces himself

We met the new resident deputy, Bob Schneider. He is really trying to keep up with any problems in the Lakes and Valleys, including issuing tickets to those who insist that the posted speed limits do not apply to them! According to Deputy Schneider, it's not just the commuters who disregard the speed limit signs, or even the stop signs out here.

He noted that the single primary cause of traffic accidents on San Francisquito Canyon Road, Lake Elizabeth Road and Spunky Canyon Road is speed! He spoke with heartfelt emphasis that he would like to see everyone slow down and make sure that they all reach their destinations safely.

Town council upcoming events

Dumpster Day and Free Chipper Day will be June 5

this year. Any trash which is too big for your weekly trash pickup can be brought to the dumpsters for a low fee, and any brush/ branches on your property can be chipped for free.

Mark your calendars for this annual service provided by your Green Valley Town Council and coordinated with your local U.S. Forest Service station on San Francisquito Cyn. Rd.

CERT training

VOPs Rob Kennard and Ron Sardisco reported on the upcoming CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training Day on March 20 (See article on page 7).

They are requesting that all CERT-trained individuals give their home addresses (not P.O. box numbers) and home phone numbers to either of them so that in case of an emergency, they can be

notified.

These folks who have been trained by CERT instructors are to assist the first responders. In case of a major disaster where the usual first responders may not be able to reach us, they might BE the first responders!

They have all been trained in minor search-and-rescue, first aid and triage, etc., and are coordinated with the sheriff's department, our local Fire Safe Council, and the fire department.

If enough folks in our area apply to take CERT training, a class could be scheduled right here in the Lakes and Valleys; it takes just 25 people to schedule a class.

Applicants can range from age 18 and up - there is no age limit at the other end, because even someone who's 105 or handicapped can take the classes, and then be utilized as recorder or note-taker, a job that is very necessary in any emergency to communicate with the various affected agencies.

Rob Kennard and Ron Sardisco are also developing maps from our five communities (Leona Valley, Green Valley, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth and Three Points) listing any hazardous areas; older or handicapped residents, especially those living alone; heavy equipment available to be used in an emergency; and any who have radio communication equipment or knowledge.

(Anyone out there with a HAM radio? Contact Rob, Ron or Doris Karabinus!) Vonnie McCullah, GVCH President announced she had been working with Betty Young, AFV&L Fire Safe Council Vice President, confirming official emergency evacuation centers in Green Valley. There is one at each end of town: one at the GVCH and the other on the property across from the new Green Valley store, thanks to the owners of Heart N Soul, Warren and Kat Bemiller.

One thing we all need to remember: in an emergency, such as a major earthquake,

we will be on our own, maybe for several weeks!

We all saw what happened in Haiti a couple of months ago, and they will be years restoring their lives. If we want to survive with any certainty, we must be prepared, and the best way is to know exactly what to do BEFORE the emergency happens.

4-H to Host Pancake Breakfast

The Leona Valley Racketteers 4-H Club will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Leona Valley Community Building.

All monies will be donated to the Leona Valley Town Council to be used to fight the water rate increase.

Cost is \$5.00.

Humor

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car - both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to an intersection. The stoplight was red, but they just went on through.

The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light."

After a few more minutes, they came to another intersection and the light was red. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it.

She was getting nervous.

At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh, crap, am I driving?"

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The High Desert Organic Gardener

By Robert Kerekes
Contributing writer

Winter has indeed been mild at my place. Nature has so far been generous with the rains and their frequency has caused a flush of wild mushrooms out on the desert floor. Not common to be sure.

I had seen them now and then but never enough to collect to eat even though I knew they were of the *Agaricus* genera and therefore potentially very edible, or mildly poisonous. I decided they were probably edible, ate a small piece, later ate three slices of a sautéed cap. Oh, what flavor! Definitely better than the marketplace common mushroom, *Agaricus bisporus*.

Since then three of us have eaten generous portions of the wild *Agaricus* mushrooms, which most closely resemble the very desirable field mushroom found mostly in cattle pasture and grow in nitrogen enriched grass. I suspect the mountains have also brought forth a flush of warm weather mushrooms.

Of course the rains have cut back on watering the garden but have watered the trees. The problem of late is that the fruit trees flower too early and then get killed by late frosts and/or heavy winds. In fact watering trees early in our area is a no, no because it stimulates early flowering. Also be careful fertilizing fruit trees with nitrogen as it will lead to great vegetative growth with little fruit production.

Should the trend for warmer winters continue, and I believe it will, then that means that what we grow and when we grow it will change. If we are prepared for it - that is we accept climate change as real - then we can make those changes, and some of them, at least in the short term, will be positive.

A warmer winter would mean some plants that can't be grown now could be

grown. It would also increase our insect population and some insects that thrive in heat would be around for a longer period of time, like flies. The surprises are always the most fun.

Some variety of wild mustard can be found growing almost everywhere. Many have the ability to withstand cold and even freezes. Bees love them. They are all edible, though not all are delectable and most have some degree of pepperiness. The poultry and rabbits love to eat them. Many of the coles we grow are all related to them.

A close relative is arugula. In fact arugula is really just an extremely peppery mustard. The time to plant arugula and other mustards is in the fall. Actually I just took mature arugula plants with dried pods and cast them intact at the outer end of a rectangular garden watered with a circular sprinkler.

The area had never been cultivated, nor were any amendments added, compost or otherwise except for some wood ash. I have had a flourishing crop of arugula since around late fall and it will carry me into April.

I don't understand the reaction of some men to arugula. "I'm a real man and real men do not eat arugula, or quiche, or yogurt, etc." Anyone understand this rejection of very good food by "real men?"

This year I experimented with two types of Chinese cabbage and have been very rewarded. One was regular Chinese cabbage and the other was a dwarf version, which takes a shorter time to mature. I think the dwarf version would be the better choice for mid to late winter planting. The regular, larger variety is best as a late summer / early fall crop as it grows well into the winter and is, as of this writing, still coming on strong and looks its best.

The Gardening Co-op has

yet to become a true co-op yet the monthly meetings have been very successful. We're drawing mostly beginners who have yet to have any true successes. Maybe moreso this year. Apparently experienced gardeners have nothing to learn in life, know it all already, and have no need to pass on anything to anybody else.

At the same time those few early members who continue to come have gained a lot in terms of knowledge, new seeds, new plants, and one has even been using black salve, which I consider a huge step. And, of course, I always learn something.

Now that we meet in the afternoon the meetings go on into the evening with people leaving as they want.

I lost my January sign-in sheet so have not been able to call the young lady from Lake Hughes who expressed an interest in the rabbits, or the horse lady from Elizabeth Lake, who expressed an interest in riding with the horse co-op people. I would like to hear from both of you.

The Garden Co-op meets monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 3 pm at my place. March's meeting is on the 13th. Call or e-mail me for directions.

There are three openings in the horse co-op. These would be for people who do not have horses. Shared costs and work reduce the load for everyone and the horses get more attention, which is good for them. The riding season has arrived.

The expanded version of this column can be seen on my web site.

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Gymkhana Schedule

By Mike Pohlig

Thirty riders and their families competed at the Lee Rackett Arena in the first Leona Valley Gymkhana of 2010, racing their horses around six events for the fastest time. Beginning and experienced riders competed in seven classes based on age and experience, earning ribbons for the top seven times in each class for each event. The opening ceremonies started with a flag run and queen wave from the Gymkhana Queens:

Miss - Colleen Jackson, Junior Miss - Jamie Wells and Little Miss - Olivia McCollum. The opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was given by Jacob Wells.

After volunteering at the gymkhana for seven years and serving as gymkhana presidents for the last four years, Chris and Kathy Londergan passed leadership over to a group of volunteers including the Kaye family, Eaves family, Wells family and Ross family. In addition to these volunteers, the following people also volunteered at the January gymkhana: Kara McCollum, Linda Kreimendahl, Orion Westfall, Jeff Schwartz, Pam VerMaas, and the Pohlig family. Mosman's Hay & Feed and Hardware of Leona Valley began their eighth year of sponsoring High Point awards to the first place finisher in each class. The High Point winners for January were AAA - Christina VerMaas, AA - Jaime McCanna, A2 - Jamie Wells, A1 - Chele Solomon, Novice 18 & Over - Emilie Fouts, N2 - Madeline Lutz, and N1 - Molly Ahern.

Be sure and mark your calendars for the remaining Leona Valley gymkhanas for 2010:

Saturday, March 27, Play Day; Sunday, May 16, Play Day Sat., July 17, Play Day; Sat., September 11, Season Finale For more information check www.lvgykhana.org, or contact Kate Pohlig, 270-1821.

See photos, next month.

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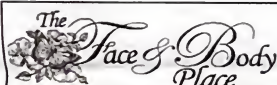
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Hello from The Ranch at Elizabeth Lake

Many changes are happening at The Ranch and with these changes come many new activities for everyone to enjoy. We are working hard to create a new and exciting outdoor adventure area for the entire family.

Starting in 2009, under new CEO Bill Dawson, the Ranch is experiencing a positive transformation in attitude and appeal. With his vision, direction, and years of successful experience in the amusement park industry, Bill Dawson is helping make sure that the Ranch is shaping up to be more than it ever has been, while still holding on to the essence of what our guests have come to enjoy when visiting the resort.

The Ranch staff is looking forward to greeting our guests with a smile and positive approach while guests have an enjoyable experience during their visit. We look forward to helping create new experiences and memories for every guest at The Ranch.

Each month I will provide information on upcoming special events, new resort features and general information about the Ranch. Some of the new and exciting activities we have been working hard to create over the winter months are:

- The addition of our new "Rock Climbing Wall" (opening spring of 2010)
- The new "Ride the Ranch Bicycle Park" (opening spring of 2010)
- The new "Ranch Gym/Exercise facility" (opening spring of 2010)
- The relocation of "Cycle Sports Super Store" bicycle shop to the resort (scheduled opening of March 2010)

These are just a few of the new and exciting activities, experiences and features that we are excited to unveil to our guests for 2010! We are continuing to work hard on these projects and many others such as:

- The new "Ranch General Store" (scheduled opening in 2010)
- The new "Observation and Picnic Deck" (scheduled opening in 2010)
- The new "Ranch Adult co-ed Softball League" (scheduled for play in summer 2010)
- The new "Ranch Kids Adventure Day-Camp" (scheduled for summer 2010)

All of these exciting new features and activities complement our existing amenities in our 100+ full hook-up site RV campground and 18 hole golf course.

These are exciting times at the Ranch and our staff is looking forward to helping our guests experience all of the new and existing opportunities for fun that the Ranch has to offer!

With the new year comes the arrival of America's favorite pastime – baseball! We are proud to support The Lakes Little League 2010 season starting in March at "The Ranch Youth Baseball/Softball Field." The Ranch is honored to be working with our local Little League to help create what should be the best season of local youth baseball/softball yet!

The Greenside Bar & Grill at The Ranch has teamed up with the Little League to offer some of the best "stadium dog" and "pizza slice" specials around. With the new outfield grass on the main field and work to finish the "T-Ball Field" under-way, the 2010 baseball/softball season in the Lakes communities will be a great experience for the whole family!

For more information on The Ranch at Elizabeth Lake resort and our special events, activities and features, please contact our Guest Services at (661) 724-1221.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our guests and the local community for their continued support and look forward to seeing all of you at The Ranch soon. Look for our, "Ranch Chatter" column each month in *The Mountain Yodeler*.

Sincerely,
Shannon Decker

WEATHER OR NOT?

Weather data for Elizabeth Lake area (Elevation 3450 ft.)
January 2010

By Tom Kaucher

Temperature

High- 65 on 1-12 Low- 25 on 1-24
Average High-52.3 Average Low-32.3
Average Temperature-42.3
Lowest High-39 on 1-22
Highest Low-42 on 1-17

Precipitation

Precipitation-8.95"(3.76" Above Average, 8.39"
Above Last Year)
Seasonal Precipitation (7-1-09 to 1-31-10) – 17.04"
(5.36" Above Average, 8.64" Above Last Year)
Snowfall- 2.25" Last year- 0.00"

Outlook for March 2010

March 21st brings the end of winter and the start of spring. March has the second highest average precipitation for any month of the year and a good potential for snowfall. Daytime highs will range from the low 40s to low 70s and overnight lows from the low 20s to mid 40s.

March Averages and Records

Temperature

High- 88 in 2007 Low- 21 in 1982
Average High-60.9 Average Low-36.7
Average Temperature-48.8

Precipitation

Average Precipitation- 4.37"
2009 Precipitation- 2.00"
Greatest Precipitation-13.81" in 1983
Average Snowfall- 1.20"
Greatest Snowfall- 12.5" in 1991
2009 Snowfall- Trace

Averages and records only depict data since 1976.

Did you know?

In 1995, a giant iceberg some 23 by 48 miles in size broke loose and floated out to sea. The 600-foot thick iceberg was the size of Luxembourg, Germany.



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